

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A maleimide cluster comprising ~~at least one a~~ core carbohydrate molecule wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, oligosaccharides, and cyclic oligosaccharides and wherein at least two or more maleimides are attached to the core and optionally comprising a protein covalently attached to the maleimide.
2. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core carbohydrate molecule is a monosaccharide and wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core.
3. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the maleimides are attached to the core by a linker.
4. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 wherein the two or more maleimides are each attached to the core by a linker.
- 5-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster of claim 7, wherein the core is a polyol.
- 12-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises cyclodextrin and wherein one or more maleimides are each attached to the cyclodextrin by a linker.
- 16-18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently amended) The maleimide cluster of claim 2 further comprising a protein covalently attached to each of the maleimides, wherein proteins attached to the maleimides have the same or different amino acid sequences.

20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering a peptide drug comprising administering a multivalent peptide containing a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide drug to a patient in need thereof, wherein the multivalent peptide comprises peptides covalently attached to the maleimide cluster of claim 2.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the covalently attached peptides comprise[[s]] identical amino acid sequence or differ in the the same or different amino acid sequences.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) A method of making a multivalent protein comprising contacting proteins containing a thiol group with the maleimide cluster according to claim 2 and forming a covalent bond thereto.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherin the covalently bonded proteins comprise[[s]] identical amino acid sequence or differ in the the same or different amino acid sequences.

30-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 comprising a protein covalently attached to each maleimide, wherein the protein is an HIV antigen.